



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Michael D. Planet
*Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT TO BEGIN SELECTING SPECIAL GRAND JURIES FOR INDICTMENTS

The Ventura Superior Court has undertaken a review of its current procedures for the selection of grand jury members. In the course of this review, the Court has spoken with the District Attorney and representatives of the County Executive Officer. Grand jury practices in other California courts have also been studied. As a result, the Court will select special grand juries for criminal indictments when requested to do so by the District Attorney effective immediately.

Special grand juries will be selected from the general pool of jurors that report to the court. A panel of jurors will be sent to a courtroom where the presiding judge will consider requests from potential grand jurors to be excused on the basis of a hardship, such as health, child care needs, or economic hardship. Nineteen grand jurors will then be selected at random from those not excused. The presiding judge will select one to be the foreperson. The special grand jury will then meet with the District Attorney at a designated time and place and the indictment proceeding will begin. All proceedings are confidential.

The Ventura Superior Court is continuing to actively seek nominations for the 2002-2003 Grand Jury. Nominees must be 18 years of age or older; a citizen of the United States; of ordinary intelligence, sound judgement and good character; in possession of their natural faculties; a resident of Ventura County for at least one year; and have never been convicted of a felony or malfeasance in office.

Principal functions of the grand jury include investigating the various departments and special districts of county and city government, involvement in fiscal or management audits, and preparation of reports on related matters.

Service on the grand jury is for a period of one year, commencing July 1 through June 30, and usually involves 32 to 40 hours per week.

Citizens interested in obtaining more information or an application should contact the court's Jury Services office at (805) 654-5025 during regular business hours or visit the grand jury website at www.grandjury.countyofventura.org. The deadline for submitting an application is Friday, April 19, 2002.

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